Groton Ambulance Association

Board of Directors Meeting

August 9, 2023

Board members present: Chet Kaniecki (President), Rob McDermott (Secretary/Treasurer), Kelsey Gomes (Training Officer), Paula Edwards (Member at Large #1), Martha Brucker (Member at Large #2)

1. President Kaniecki calls August Board of Directors meeting to order at 18:01 with entire board present except for an excused absence from Ryan Boulanger (Vice President).
2. Motion by Kelsey Gomes and seconded by Paula Edwards to accept minutes from July Board of Directors meeting as posted. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Officers Report
   1. President
      1. Several topics were covered as on attached submitted report.
   2. Vice President
      1. President Kaniecki noted that the slide sheets funded by the Worker’s Comp grant have been provided.
   3. Secretary/Treasurer
      1. See attached submitted report. Motion by Paula Edwards and seconded by Kelsey Gomes to accept treasurer’s report as read. Motion carried unanimously.
   4. Training
      1. Dean Mayo is progressing in driver training.
      2. Nathaniel Jackson is progressing in the training program.
      3. Cameron DeFusco is progressing in the training program.
      4. James Petritz has started the training program.
      5. New hire orientation is scheduled for 8/15 for Kelsey Fowler.
      6. EVOC driving class is scheduled for 8/18.
      7. A training course for Pet CPR and First Aid is being hosted this month by Gardiner Fire Company in Salem, with the notice posted.
      8. Training for slide sheets will be scheduled.
   5. Member at Large #1
      1. No report.
   6. Member at Large #2
      1. No report.
4. Old Business
   * 1. Motion by Martha Brucker and seconded by Paula Edwards to pay 8 employees premium pay checks for $1500 with the taxes responsible by the employee who are eligible for ARPA funding. Discussion noted that GAA has entered in the agreement with the Town of Groton to meet the guidelines for the use of this funding. Motion carried 2 yay (President Kaniecki, Rob McDermott) – 0 nay – 3 abstaining (Paula Edwards, Kelsey Gomes, Martha Brucker). President Kaniecki noted payment should be available for the employees this week.
     2. Motion by Paula Edwards and seconded by Martha Brucker to grant permission to the board to enter in to an agreement with Edward Jones to invest a total of $200,000 using funds from the Charter Oak account. The Edward Jones finance company has an existing account with GAA for prior investments and for current 401k accounts. President Kaniecki and Rob McDermott met with the representative and we will set the funds a recommended mix of low risk accounts. Motion carried unanimously.
     3. President Kaniecki noted that radios are being configured and should be available in a couple weeks.
     4. President Kaniecki noted that ambulance repairs continue at Eastford.
     5. President Kaniecki has scheduled a new test for a model of Toughbook to be sent for evaluation soon.
     6. President Kaniecki wished to congratulate employees who had a date of hire anniversary in August. Those employees were:
        1. Skyler Hatter, 2 years
     7. President Kaniecki asked for additional information from the Thrive Together Alliance. A donation was tabled for now.
5. New Business
   * 1. Motion by Paula Edwards and seconded by Martha Brucker to give $1,500 covid bonus to volunteers Chet Kaniecki, Brian Kiely, Rob McDermott, Keith Gomes, and to look in to Ryan Boulanger at GAA who would have been eligible for the premium pay if they were not volunteers. Discussion was that these employees were ineligible for ARPA premium pay as they were volunteers, but gave significant contributions to the organization. Funding would not come from ARPA. Motion passed 2 yay (Paula Edwards, Martha Brucker) – 0 nay – 3 abstain (President Kaniecki, Rob McDermott, Kelsey Gomes).
     2. President Kaniecki, Kelsey Gomes, and Martha Brucker will be attending an online run form training program on zoom. The training was being put on by the billing company and has no cost to GAA.
     3. An interview is scheduled for 8/10 for a full time employee position.
     4. Motion by President Kaniecki and seconded by Paula Edwards to change the Employee Handbook to add that for any hires hired after May 1, 2023 for purposes of the shift bid senority effective data will be when the employee becomes a full crew member. Motion carried 4 yay (President Kaniecki, Martha Brucker, Kelsey Gomes, Paula Edwards) – 0 nay – 1 abstain (Rob McDermott).
6. Good of the Order
   1. President Kaniecki wished to thank Christian Lombardi for organizing a gift in remembrance of Subase Assistant Chief Jeffrey Post on behalf of GAA. A floral arrangement and additional gift for the GoFundMe was collected.
7. Motion by Martha Brucker and seconded by Paula Edwards to adjourn at 19:25. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob McDermott

Secretary/Treasurer